COMIC SHOP NEWS
483
SCARE TACTICS

Fright Makes Right

The DC Universe has more than its share of superheroes and supervillains... but what about those weird, shadowy corners of the DC Universe where even superheroes and supervillains get the creeps? Surely even a world dominated by superheroes must have places that make the Phantom Stranger think twice before he pays a visit, right?

Editor Dan Thorsland thinks so—which is why he's put together an entire line of books that are set in the DC's "twilight zone." While the emphasis is on horror, mystery, and the unexplainable, these are not Vertigo books—and they are accessible to all readers.

Night Force, Scare Tactics, Challenger of the Unknown, and ***The Book of Fate:*** these are the "weird books" that form the core of Thorsland's new line. Readers will be introduced to the first two of these books this October (how appropriate that they would appear during Halloween month!), while the final two will follow in the next few months. Three of the four books bring back popular heroes or critically acclaimed concepts previously published by DC, while one introduces never-before-seen characters in an offbeat combination of the macabre and the musical.

The line begins with ***Night Force***, the reincarnation of Marv Wolfman's cult classic from the 1980's. The book focus on the enigmatic Baron Winters, who brings together various unusual characters to help him in his war with the forces of darkness. Like Mission: Impossible's IMF, the Night Force may be comprised of a number of agents chosen from an offbeat group of operatives somehow connected with Winters.

In the first story arc, the Night Force confronts a cult of reincarnationists who wreak havoc on humanity once ever millennium... and now's the time for their return. But Winters is determined to prevent the deadly cult from unleashing its horrors—no matter what cost such a confrontation might exact from his newly-formed team. This three-part story is illustrated by Brent Anderson and Will Blyberg; future story arcs will unite Wolfman with a variety of top comic artists. ***Night Force #1***, a $2.25 comic, is scheduled for October 9th release.

Two weeks later, readers will meet a much more upbeat group in ***Scare Tactics***. These are the children of the classic creatures of the night—a group of teen terrors who are less influenced by their parents' menacing ways than they are by MTV. The members of Scare Tactics—Screamqueen, Grossout, Slither, and Fang—have come up with the perfect "cover" when they interact with normal humans: as a hard-rock band, they are constantly surrounded by other musicians who seem as offbeat as they are! In the first issue, they come face to face with the Graveyard Shift, a team of monster hunters who, after learning of the team's true nature, hopes not only to eliminate Scare Tactics but also to put an end to all the other creatures of the night like them.

Scare Tactics is the creation of writer Len Kaminski, who is joined by artists Anthony Williams and Andrew Lanning; the first issue, a $2.25 comic, is scheduled for October 23rd release. Readers who'd like a chance to meet these rock-monsters a bit early will have an opportunity to see Scare Tactics in action on October 2nd, however; that's when ***Showcase '96 #11***, which features a Scare Tactics prelude, hits the comic racks.

Coming up in future months are a pair of books that bring back classic DC heroes. ***Challengers of the Unknown*** presents a new team of Challengers... a team with links to the Challs of the past. And ***The Book of Fate*** offers a new take on the classic Dr. Fate, one of the DC Universe's most powerful mystic masters.

A macabre IMF, a group of musical monsters, a team living on borrowed time, and a master of the mystical... these are the inhabitants of Dan Thorsland's corner of the DC Universe. Prepare to make a call on Dan T's family beginning this fall—if you're up to it!

by Kim B. Pearson

Scorpio Sets Out To Sting His Enemies

Want to bring big trouble down on yourself? Target a cop and see just how unpleasant your life can become. Policemen watch out for their own—and that seems to be true everywhere, from the streets of Los Angeles or New York to the futuristic dystopia of Marinopolis.

Code Name: Scorpio, a new three-issue limited series produced by a pair of Croatian talents who certainly know a great deal about surprise attacks and the potential for death around every corner. In this series, though, it's a pair of police officers who face death: Savannah and Scorpio are ambushed by their enemy, Kurgen—and it appears that Kurgen had some inside help from an unexpected source: the High Priest Jackson, who's supposed to be on the side of law and order! Now Scorpio decides to take the law in his own hands and avenge his critically-wounded partner... no matter where the path may take him.

Code Name: Scorpio is a hard-edged comic that publisher Antarctic Press says "will remind you of the early days of Heavy Metal and Epic Illustrated." The tale of futuristic vengeance, which is written by Miki Horvatic and illustrated by E.T. Ribic, marks Antarctic's first foray into the European comics scene—but if this comic proves to be as popular as Antarctic expects it will be, it certainly won't be their last!

Code Name: Scorpio #1, a $2.95 full-color comic, is scheduled for October release; the second and third issues follow on a bi-monthly schedule.

by Wayne Lee

Aliens Attack on Two Fronts

Dark Horse revitalized the world of licensed comics with ***Aliens,*** the *Mark Verheiden-Mark Nelson* series that proved that a comic book based on a film could be more than a sterile retelling of the film's plot complemented by artographed photos of the stars. Instead, Verheiden and Nelson constructed a complex new tale that went beyond the film, challenging future writers to push the limits of licensed books and reviving a moribund subgenre of comics. And now the two Marks are reuniting to create another new Aliens story for ***A Decade of Dark Horse #3***, the latest issue of the retrospective anthology series. This new tale at about the same time as the debut of ***Aliens: Outbreak***, the "remastered" full-color version of the original Verheiden/Nelson series, is set for release, offering fans a "directors cut" of the comic to complement this new tale. ***A Decade of Dark Horse #3*** also features a new *Mike Baron/Steve Rude* Nexus tale, a Mask story by *John Arcudi* and *Doug Mahnke*, and Exon Depot by *Masamune Shirow*; look for the $2.95 comic on September 5th.

Coming up in late October is another Aliens attack, ***Aliens: Nightmare Asylum.*** This "remastered" trade paperback is the first-time-in-years reprinting of *Mark Verheiden* and *Denis Beauvais'* second Aliens limited series; the new edition, which is redialogued to fit into the continuity of the ***Aliens*** motion-picture series, will offer improved reproduction to bring out the beauty of Denis Beauvais' painted art. ***Aliens: Nightmare Asylum***, an October 30th release, is priced at $16.95.

The Aliens invasion is returning this fall—just in time for the Aliens to make an assault on motion picture theaters later this year in their fourth feature film. And there are more ***Aliens*** comics in the works, including a third bout with the Dark Knight. Obviously these critters are very tough to get rid of—and Dark Horse is quite happy about that!

by Wayne Lee

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COMIC SHOP NEWS™
9-25-96
From Your Friendly Neighborhood Comics Outlet
Printed on Recycled Newsprint

Introducing a Medley of Fairy Tales and Folklore

Kings. Queens. Castles. Witches. Beautiful Princesses. Strange prophecies. Magic enchantments. An awakening kiss. Sound like the sort of story you might have grown up with as a child? Well, you're going to find those same elements in ***Castle Waiting: The Curse of Brambly Hedge,*** a new fantasy from Xeric Grant recipient *Linda Medley*. All the elements of classic fairy tales from The Brothers Grimm are here—but rather than simply retelling those stories, Medley has brought to them a clever sometimes irreverent edge that makes the tales seem refreshingly different. And this isn't just a one-shot fantasy tale, either; the 64-page ***Curse of Brambly Hedge,*** with its new take on a classic tale of love and rivalry, will set the stage for the delightful hip-Mervyn-Peake-ish ***Castle Waiting*** fantasy series debuting in the next few months. ***Castle Waiting: The Curse of Brambly Hedge,*** a $5.95 book from Olio Press written and illustrated by *Linda Medley*, is scheduled for October release.

©1996 Linda Medley

A Future Abomination

Thought that the horrifying world of ***Future Imperfect*** had been set free from a tyrannical future under the control of the Maestro? Think again! Just when Janis, the daughter of Rick Jones, assumed her world was a safe place in which to live, a new menace reveals itself in ***Abominations,*** a three-issue limited series written by *Ivan Velez Jr.* and illustrated by *Angel Medina*. It's the monstrous Abomination, looking to exact vengeance against the Maestro—and when he can't do that, he decides to take out his anger on Betty, a woman who is pregnant with the Maestro's child. Unable to stop him in their time, Janis travels back to the present-day Marvel Universe to seek out the modern-day Abomination and stop this chain of events from coming about. This dramatic new series is a must-read for fans of ***The Hulk: Future Imperfect,*** offering readers another glimpse into this horrifying future. ***Abominations #1,*** a $1.50 comic, is scheduled for October 16th release.

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Comic Shop News, Inc.

The Original Big Bang

For the past couple of years in books from two different publishers, the folks at Big Bang Studios have introduced readers to one of the most appealing, nostalgic superhero universes that they've never known.

In effect, these comics have taken readers on a sixty-year tour of a comic company that never existed until the debut of this series, creating a quasi-nostalgia that will seem remarkably familiar to fans of Golden and Silver Age offerings from DC and other publishers. But where did these heroes come from? That question is answered in ***Big Bang Comics #5,*** which features the Top Secret Origins of the Knight Watchman, Blitz, Ultiman, and others. Get ready for the strangest case of almost-deja-vu in modern comics this October, when ***Big Bang Comics #5,*** a $2.95 book, hits the stands.

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CSNsider

According to a variety of news sources, Warner Bros. has hired *Kevin Smith*, writer/director of ***Clerks*** and ***Mallrats,*** to rewrite the script for the ***Superman*** film that's expected to go into production next summer. Thus far, no one has been cast in the title role; this new ***Superman*** film will not tie in with the current ***Lois and Clark*** television series... ***Chastity,*** introduced in ***Evil Ernie: Straight to Hell,*** will graduate to her own miniseries in early '97, while Ernie himself will be the star of a nine-issue limited series running through most of next year... Look for a major costume redesign for Robin in the ***Batman and Robin*** film slated for '97 release. Also, don't expect to see Barbara Gordon in the Batgirl costume; the new Batgirl will instead have ties to Alfred... The ***Cable•Prophet*** crossover book, originally slated for early summer release, has been put on hiatus; it will be rescheduled, but no date has been set yet... ***Hawaii Five-O*** with *Willem Dafoe* in the McGarritt role? Could be!... *Rob Liefeld* has announced Extreme Genesis, a plan to revamp the Extreme line of Image Comics beginning in early '97, focusing on a four title family of books: ***Youngblood, Prophet, Glory,*** and ***The NewMen...*** ***The Hobgoblin*** is starring in a new limited series written by *Roger Stern* beginning in November—and the storyline will reopen the mystery of the Hobgoblin's identity (thought that one was solved, did you?)... *Warren Ellis* has signed on with Harris Comics to write ***Vampirella Lives,*** the next Vampirella miniseries, beginning in December... begin Silver Surfer and Superman cross paths in November, courtesy of *George Pérez, Ron Lim,* and *Terry Austin*... And speaking of Silver Surfer, *Dean Muson* has designed a stunning ***Silver Surfer 30th Anniversary*** pewter-and-porcelain statue ; look for it in late November... Were we talking about statues? Well, Dark Horse and Bowen Designs will offer a series of collectible ***X-Files*** statues. "I'm a big fan of ***The X-Files*** and am proud to be associated with the show in this way," *Randy Bowen* said. His first sculpture will be The Flukeman... DC's ***Justice League: A Midsummer's Nightmare*** has been so overwhelmingly successful that the first two issues are totally sold out, as a result, DC is rushing an $8.95 trade paperback into production that will offer the entire storyline, just in time to lead into the ***Justice League of America*** relaunch... Fleer will release its next ***Star Trek Card Game*** expansion set, ***Starfleet Maneuvers,*** in November... ***Bondage Fairies,*** previously published by Antarctic Pres will move to Fantagraphics' Eros Comics line beginning in November... *Charles Satterlee*, writer of ***Agony Acres***, will be writing a new series for Event Comics next year... ***The Official Marvel Timeline***, a Marvel Universe history-focused book originally scheduled for November release, has been cancelled; the book was to have been prepared by *Mark Gruenwald*, who died of a heart attack on August 12th... ***Sliders***, the series that go off to a slow initial start, has gained such a devoted audience that Fox is committing to a full 25-episode season for next year—and of course, Acclaim has many more ***Sliders*** comics in the works as well, all of which are produced in conjunction with creator/producer *Tracy Torme*... *John Bergin*, creator of ***Ashes***, launches a new science fiction/cybergoth series, ***Golgothika***, with Caliber comics this November... Wolverine fans have a pair of intriguing deluxe items to choose from in November; one is a Wolverine gold-painted porcelain Christmas ornament ($39.00), and the other is a porcelain and pewter Wolverine Desk Set that features the feral mutant's fist, with the claws serving as the writing pens ($89.95)... And if that ain't enough Wolvie stuff, there's also November's ***Ultra X-Men: Wolverine Trading Card Series***, featuring painted art by *Boris Vallejo*, *Mark Texeira*, and *Joe Jusko*, with an original comic book story on the back... ***The Tick*** is moving to the big screen in a full-length animated feature... Jim Lee has confirmed that Homage Comics will become a part of Image Comics beginning in November; Lee felt that the books in the imprint, which are not a part of the Image Universe, could nonetheless benefit from carrying the Image imprint... Marvel has hired former NBA marketing exec *David Schreff* as the prez and COO of Marvel Comics; this reflects Marvel's strong emphasis on licensing and merchandising... *Jim Krueger's* ***Footsoldiers***, previously published by Dark Horse and tentatively slated to be self-published, will instead join *Rob Liefeld's* Maximum Press later this year... *Mark Verheiden* has signed on to write "Given the Hein," a time-travel episode of the new HBO series ***Perversions of Science***, which (like ***Tales From the Crypt***) features stories based EC Comics tales, this time from their sf books. Verheiden describes his sf story as "a real sick one"... Marvel reports that ***Independence Day***, the summer's mega-hit film, is moving to television in '97 with an ongoing series based on the hit film... We were deluged with e-mail from folks urging us to run a correction on the ***Superman Wedding Album*** story that appeared in ***CSN*** a couple of weeks ago, saying that it couldn't possibly be correct because that's not what was listed as the contents for the October Superman books. Well, plans change—and this is one of those cases! DC has revised the contents of *all* the October Superman titles to reflect the wedding plans...

War What Is It Good For?

History has always celebrated men of peace... but it has always chronicled men of war. That's true here on Earth, and it seems to be true everywhere else in the universe as well, too. In the distant galaxy that is the home to the warlike red planet Ecronius, the military conquerors control the society and are celebrated in its history. There were those who opposed the world's warring ways... but they were all sought out and executed by the warlike majority who wanted no part of their peaceful vision.

Or at least they thought they had sought out and executed all of the peacemakers. Unfortunately for them, they overlooked ***Gideon,*** a lone rebel who wages his "war for peace" against an entire planet. Gideon is the creation of *Mario Ruiz*, whose story of one man's struggle against the nature of an entire planet is sure to appeal to fans of cosmic adventure books such as Nexus. ***Gideon #1,*** a $2.95 full-color book from Caliber Comics that kicks off a three-issue limited series, is scheduled for October release.

Razor Edges Into All Ages Territory

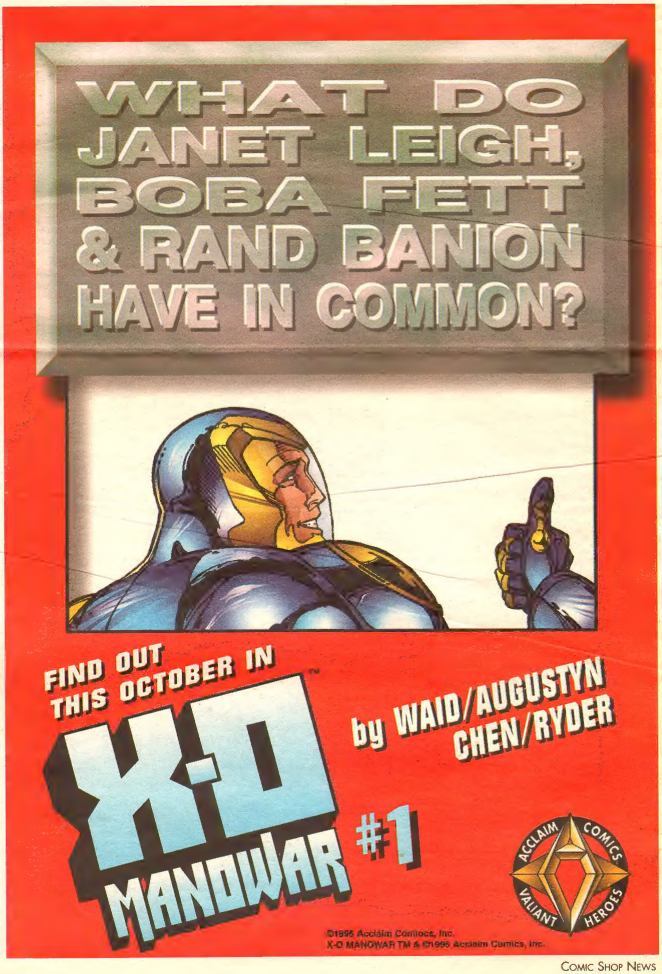
Thus far in the history of Razor, the book has been targeted at mature readers only. Beginning with ***Razor Vol 2 #1,*** though, London Night Studios is aiming at a broader audience as they make their flagship title a full-color all-ages book.

Of course, since many readers might not have sampled the adventures of Razor before, a broader-based relaunch requires a reintroduction of the character—and that's just what ***Razor V2#1*** offers. "This is the jump-on," London Night Studios said. "Everything you need to know is in the mix, complete in one hard-hitting adventure." Veteran fans shouldn't pass this one by, though, for they'll find new insights into the character of Razor in this issue. ***Razor V2#1*** is written by *David Quinn* and illustrated by *Steve Scott*; the $3.95 first issue, slated for October release, features a chromium cover—and a 1:25 variant photo embossed edition is also available for the completest.

Concrete Paves the Way In New Card Series

Paul Chadwick's unpredictable, personal, insightful Concrete tales have built quite a reputation for the creator and quite a following for the stony hero. Many of those Concrete fans haven't been satisfied with just the Concrete appearances in various comic books; they've also commissioned Chadwick to create original ink-and-watercolor paintings of Concrete, Larry, Maureen, and Tripod. Thus far, most of this art has been seen an appreciated only by those who own the originals—but this fall, every Concrete fan will be able to enjoy Fifty Concrete Watercolors for less than the price of a single black and white convention sketch!

Fifty Concrete Watercolors delivers just what the name implies; most of the paintings come from those paintings done for collectors, supplemented by new scenes of Concrete's origin and a painted retelling of ***Concrete: Think Like a Mountain.*** Chadwick adds commentary and rare line art to the card backs, making this a must-have for art fans as well as Concrete collectors. ***Fifty Concrete Watercolors,*** priced at $14.95 for the boxed set, is scheduled for November 6th release.


WHAT DO JANET LEIGH, BOBA FETT & RAND BANION HAVE IN COMMON?
FIND OUT THIS OCTOBER IN
X-O MANOWAR #1
by WAID/AUGUSTYN CHEN/RYDER
ACCLAIM COMICS VALIANT HEROES
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Wedding Gift For Superman Fans

When Clark Kent and Lois Lane tie the not in the biggest wedding event in comic book history, they're going to have a number of high-profile creative "guests" joining in the celebration. To commemorate this wedding as a truly unforgettable event, DC has called on a variety of top talent from throughout comics history to be a part of this book—including six pages by the late Curt Swan, the artist more closely associated with the Man of Steel than any other.

Superman: The Wedding Album, a $4.95 96-page comic book, will bring together a group of artists unlike any ever assembled for a single book. Here's the artistic plan for this special celebration:

—John Byrne: 2 pages pencils, with Terry Austin inks
—Nick Cardy: 2 pages pencils and inks
—Kieron Dwyer: 3 pages pencils, with Doug Hazlewood inks
—Ron Frenz: 12 pages pencils, with Josef Rubinstein inks
—Kerry Gammill: 2 pages pencils, with Murphy Anderson inks
—Dick Giordano: 2 pages pencils, with Art Thibert inks
—Tom Grummett: 12 pages pencils, with Denis Rodier inks
—Stuart Immonen: 12 pages pencils, with Jose Marzan Jr. inks
—Dan Jurgens: 9 pages pencils with Jerry Ordway inks
—Gil Kane: 2 pages pencils, with Bob McLeod inks
—Barry Kitson: 2 pages pencils, with Ray McCarthy inks
—Jim Mooney: 2 pages pencils, with George Pérez inks
—Al Plastino: 2 pages pencils and ink
—Paul Ryan: 11 pages pencils, with Dennis Janke inks
—Curt Swan: 6 pages pencils, with Jackson Guice inks

The book is collaboratively written by the entire Superman family team, including:

Dan Jurgens: 19 pages plot and script
Kark Lesel: 17 pages plot and script
David Michelinie: 18 pages plot and script
Louise Simonson: 16 pages plot and script
Roger Stern: 21 pages plot and script

The entire extravaganza is lettered by Bill Oakley and colored by Glenn Whitmore.

And remember what ***CSN*** told you first: this wedding celebration isn't just a stand-alone special event, but is an ongoing part of Superman continuity! ***Superman #118***, which arrives in stores on October 2nd, leads into this event; from there, the story continues into ***Adventures of Superman #541*** (October 16th), ***Action Comics #718*** (October 23rd), and ***Superman: The Man of Steel #63*** (October 30th).

This is one wedding that every comic book fan should make a point of attending—and you don't even have to rent a tux to be a part of this historic event!

by CLIFF BIGGERS

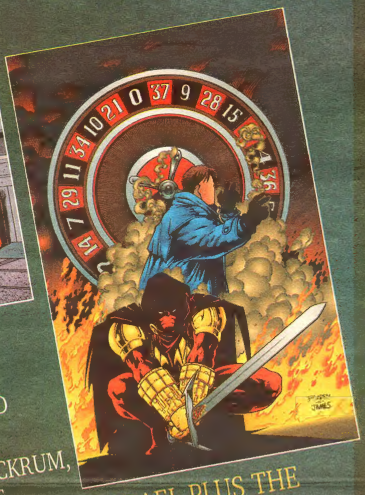
...YOU DON'T GET OFF THAT EASY, MR. KENT!
YOU HAVE TO DO IT RIGHT!
YOU'RE AN OPINIONATED, STUBBORN WOMAN, LOIS LANE.
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
IT'S AWFULLY QUIET IN THERE...
YOU HEAR THAT GLASS BREAK? FIVE BUCKS SAYS LANE REACHED THE END OF HER--
SHHH!
WHATTAYA SEE, ALLIE?
LAST THING I EVER EXPECTED...

MEANWHILE IN THE DC UNIVERSE...

WONDER WOMAN ANNUAL #5

A LEGENDS OF THE DEAD EARTH ANNUAL!

JOHN BYRNE, DAVE COCKRUM, AND NORM BREYFOGLE.



AZRAEL PLUS THE QUESTION #1

THE QUESTION IS BACK—JUST IN TIME TO HELP THE AVENGING ANGEL STOP A TERRORIST MASSACRE!

DENNIS O'NEIL AND VINCE GIARRANO.

ROBIN PLUS IMPULSE #1

A SCHOOL SKI TRIP TURNS DEADLY WHEN THE HEROES COME UP AGAINST A BAND OF GUN RUNNERS.

MARK WAID, BRIAN AUGUSTYN, JOHN ROYLE, AND ROB LEIGH

SOVEREIGN SEVEN ANNUAL #2

A LEGENDS OF THE DEAD EARTH ANNUAL!

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT, RICK LEONARDI, KLAUS JANSON, AND STEVE MITCHELL.

LOBO/DEMON: HELLOWE'EN

HALLOWEEN BITES BACK!

ONE-SHOT

BY ALAN GRANT AND VINCE GIARRANO.

LEGIONNAIRES ANNUAL #3

A LEGENDS OF THE DEAD EARTH ANNUAL!

BY ROGER STERN, CHUCK WOJTKIEWICZ, DAN JURGENS, ANTHONY CASTRILLO, JOHN LOWE, RON BOYD, AND DEXTER VINES.

HITTING STORES IN OCTOBER.

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Trekkers' Treat!

Funny how history repeats itself, isn't it? A decade and a half ago, Marvel Comics was the publishing home to the exploits of Kirk, Spock, McCoy, and the rest of the crew of the USS Enterprise. And now, after a fifteen year hiatus, the Enterprise is again making warp speed to the Marvel Universe, where the Star Trek franchise will give birth to an entire line of Marvel titles.

Under the direction of editor Bobbie Chase, Marvel Comics is working with Paramount to produce a quartet of ongoing Star Trek books, along with a variety of one-shots and limited series. Every incarnation of the Star Trek universe will be featured in its own tale, along with at least one Star Trek series that has yet to appear in its own television series.

Marvel begins with a pair of series inspired by the two current Trek series, ***Voyager*** and ***Deep Space 9. Star Trek: Voyager,*** written by Laurie Sutton and illustrated by Jesus Redondo, features all-new tales of the Voyager's efforts to find its way back from the far corners of the Delta Quadrant. In the first story arc, a three-part tale, the crew of the Voyager risks everything to save Neelix's people from an interdimensional rift; the mission of mercy takes an unexpected turn, though, when Neelix and Chakotay find themselves trapped in a strange world of crystal towers and ephemeral beings... and they soon learn that the seemingly-helpless Talaxians were actually much less helpless than anyone imagined! ***Star Trek: Voyager #1***, a $1.95 comic, is scheduled for early September release.

In mid-September, readers can sign on for new adventures of ***Star Trek: Deep Space 9*** in a series written by Howard Weinstein and illustrated by Tom Grindberg and Al Milgrom. Continuing on a "boldly go where no one has gone before" theme, the first two-part story arc sends the entire station through the wormhole into the Gamma Quadrant... and it's soon evident that this is far from an accidental event. It all turns ugly when the Amaralans become convinced that the DS9 is harboring a mega-weapon; in response, they end up holding Odo hostage! Future story arcs include a tale of infected Maquis written by Mariano Nicieza. ***Star Trek: Deep Space 9 #1*** is priced at $1.95 for a special 40-page premiere issue; subsequent 32-page issues will carry the same price.

Late in September, Marvel will publish its third Star Trek series—and for many fans, this is the most important book of all. ***Star Trek: Unlimited #1***, a $2.95 56-page comic book, will feature tales of both the original ***Star Trek*** and ***Star Trek: The Next Generation.*** Dan Abnett, Mark Buckingham, and Kev Sutherland handle the Classic Trek series, while Ian Edgington, Jerome Moore, and Al Williamson do the creative honors on the ST: TNG saga. "Mark Buckingham's version of the original Star Trek crew is so original and fresh it's some of the best Star Trek art ever!" editor Bobbie Chase said. "And Jerome Moore's the cream of the crop," she said by way of praise for his rendition of the DS9 crew.

In mid-October, Marvel unveils a fourth Star Trek series, this one featuring an all-new team of characters created especially for this comic book. ***Star Trek: Starfleet Academy,*** written by Chris Cooper and illustrated by Chris Renaud and Andy Lanning, will focus on a group of cadets training to become Starfleet Officers. The only familiar member of the cast is ***Star Trek: Deep Space 9***'s Nog, who is one of the trainees. In the first issue, the cadets are trapped in a holodeck gone haywire, where they must face a real Gorn... unarmed. The second issue follows a group of female cadets as they seek a little R&R in Australia... but you can rest assured that it's a far from restful experience! ***Star Trek: Starfleet Academy #1,*** a $1.95 comic, is scheduled for October 16th release.

Ironically, what was scheduled to be the first Star Trek publication from Marvel will ultimately become one of the late additions to Marvel's Trek line. ***Star Trek/X-Men,*** written by Scott Lobdell and illustrated by Marc Silvestri, has been postponed from its late August release date, and is now scheduled to ship on October 23rd. The 64-page $4.95 oneshot unites everyone's favorite mutants with the Classic Trek crew for an unusual stand-alone adventure; this team-up is so newsworthy that even ***TV Guide*** recently featured a squib on the book!

And with a new Star Trek film making warp speed for theaters this November, you can rest assured that Marvel is already hard at work on the movie adaptation. ***Star Trek: First Contact,*** the first ***Star Trek: The Next Generation*** feature film, pits the crew of the Enterprise against the Borg; it's up to Picard and the crew to travel through time in order to put a stop to the Borg's deadly plan of assimilation. ***Star Trek: First Contact,*** a 48-page bookshelf comic priced at $5.95, is scheduled for November 27th release.

Think that's all? Think again! Marvel has numerous other Star Trek projects in the works, including a Mirror Universe limited series featuring art by Mark Bagley. Keep an eye on future issues of ***CSN*** for more information about their star-dates and coordinates—and remember that when it comes to producing a line of Star Trek books that fans will truly enjoy, Marvel is determined to make it so!

by WAYNE LEE

Da Tooth, Da Whole Tooth...

Let's play word association: we'll name a villain, and you name a hero associated with him. We say Apocalypse, you say X-Men; we say Kingpin, you say Daredevil; we say Venom, you say Wolverine.

What? You didn't say Wolverine? Your mistake, because that's who the sinister symbiote is confronting in ***Venom: Tooth & Claw***, a three-issue limited series written by *Larry Hama* and illustrated by *Joe St. Pierre* and *Al Milgrom*. It's not that Venom dislikes Wolvie, though; you see, his body has been taken over by Wolverine's enemy Dirt Nap, who hopes to use Venom to conquer his clawed foe. The battle takes an even weirder turn when Venom and Wolverine head through the warp chamber of Landau, Luckman, and Lake and end up in dimensions unknown, where the two of them ultimately have to join forces to stand up to the combined attack of Dirt Nap and Chimera, two of Logan's adversaries from the pages of Wolverine. ***Venom: Tooth & Claw #1***, a $1.95 comic, is scheduled for October 30th release—so it looks like Dirt Nap's trick will become your treat!

The Witch Is Back

Thirty years ago, it was a witch named Samantha who charmed television viewers with her lovely appearance, kind heart, and magical powers. In 1996, it's going to be a much younger witch named Sabrina who'll accomplish much the same results! ***Sabrina, The Teenage Witch*** is an all-new television series based on the Archie Comics character—and Sabrina is about to become star of both television and comics, as Archie relaunches her adventures in book form at the same time that the series debuts on the little screen!

The first issue, produced by *Dan Parent* and *Bill Golliher*, retells the origin of the teenage witch; the story starts on her sixteenth birthday, when Sabrina's lost homework magically reappears and she somehow travels back in time to avoid a klutzy accident. Baffled and confused by the strange turns her life seems to be taking, Sabrina asks her aunts to help her understand it all—only to discover that she comes from a long line of witches, and that her mystical powers are just beginning to reveal themselves. Sabrina's aunts and her mystical cat Salem help her learn about the wonders of her new powers while the teenager struggles to live a normal life.

Sabrina: The Teenage Witch #1, a $1.50 comic, is scheduled for September 18th release—and the first issue brings back a time-honored comic book television tie-in tradition, the photo cover featuring series star *Melissa Joan Hart*. Now that you know "witch" book to ask for, don't you dare miss it!

Charting Comics Sales

"How do you figure your charts?" CSN reader Jason Ulrich asks. "I notice that my store puts up a chart that they get from their distributor, and it will list books in a different order, and it never lists any Marvels at all."

Jason is one of several people who have asked us why CSN's charts don't always agree with the sales charts they see in other sources, like distributor catalogs. While most charts only represent books ordered, CSN's charts emphasize books actually sold. We survey a variety of comic shops and ask them to report sales to us; these results are compiled and assembled to produce a chart of comics actually sold during the previous month. Additionally, while the distributor charts and publisher charts reflect orders on books scheduled to ship during the month, our charts reflect the sales of books that actually do ship, thereby adjusting for lateness. And of course, our charts reflect releases from every publisher.

Additionally, there have been questions concerning our non-comics charts, particularly focusing on the area of trading cards and game cards. We count each unit as an individual sale—therefore, the sale of cards is counted by the pack, not by the box.

The final question that has come our way a time or two concerns books that have placed on our Top Fifty Comics and our Top Ten Black-and-White Comics at the same time. That is certainly possible; each chart is calculated separately, and if a book earns a position in both charts, it will be listed twice.

Hope that clarifies how the CSN Charts work; we feel that this system offers the most accurate gauge of what fans are actually reading, as opposed to what is being ordered by stores.

CSN CHARTS

TOP 50 COMICS

CSN's **Top Seller charts are based on figures supplied by the two major distributors, Diamond Distribution and Capital City Distribution, as well as figures by a cross-section of comics speciality shops. The distributor's figures represent retailer orders placed on the titles, while the information from stores represents copies sold.**

1. Kingdom Come 4
2. X-Men 57
3. Uncanny X-Men 337
4. Spawn 51
5. Onslaught: Marvel Universe 1
6. Gen13 12
7. Generation X 20
8. X-Man 20
9. Cable 36
10. X-Men/ClanDestine 1
11. X-Men Vs. Brood: Days of Wrath 1
12. Witchblade 8
13. X-Factor 127
14. Nightwing 1
15. X-Force 59
16. Excalibur 102
17. Supergirl 2
18. Cable & X-Force '96
19. Justice League: Midsummer's Nightmare 2
20. Incredible Hulk 446
21. Batman 535
22. Superman 116
23. Detective Comics 702
24. Avengers 402
25. Action Comics 726
26. Adventures of Superman 539
27. X-File 30
28. X-Men: Pryde & Wisdom 1
29. Amazing Spider-Man 416
30. Teen Titans 1
31. X-Men: Rise of Apocalypse 1
32. Superman: Man of Steel 61
33. Superman: The Man of Tomorrow 6
34. Spider-Man 73
35. Fantastic Four 416
36. Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire 4
37. X-Files 0
38. Flash 117
39. Batman: Shadow of the Bat 55
40. Sensational Spider-Man 9
41. Further Adventures of Cyclops & Phoenix 4
42. Preacher Special: Saint of Killers 3
43. Robin 34
44. Dreaming 5
45. Purgatori: The Vampire's Myth 1
46. Spider-Man: Redemption 1
47. Catwoman 37
48. Amazing Spider-Man '96
49. Spider-Man Team-Up 4
50. Wetworks 19

TOP DOLLAR COMICS

The following comics, graphic novels and trade paperbacks were given Top Dollar ratings based on the dollar volume of the copies sold (or are expected to sell) during the late September and October sales period.

1. Kingdom Come 4
2. Onslaught: Marvel Universe 1
3. Gen13 12
4. Batman 535
5. X-Men/ClanDestine 1
6. X-Men 57
7. Witchblade 6
8. Uncanny X-Men 337
9. Spawn 51
10. Cable & X-Force '96
11. Justice League: Midsummer's Nightmare 2
12. Batman Grendel II Book 2
13. Generation X 20
14. X-Files 20
15. X-Man 20
16. Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire 4
17. X-Files 0
18. Cable 36
19. X-Men Vs. Brood: Days of Wrath
20. Purgatori: Vampire's Myth 1
21. X-Factor 127
22. Fantastic Four 416
23. Nightwing 1
24. Amazing Spider-Man '96
25. X-Force 59
26. Spider-Man Team-Up 4
27. Excalibur 102
28. Sensational Spider-Man 9
29. Batman Chronicles 6
30. Batman: Legends of Dark Knight Annual 6
31. Dreaming 5
32. Wetworks 19
33. Superman 116
34. Preacher 18
35. Detective Comics 702
36. Detention Comics 1
37. Action Comics 726
38. Adventures of Superman 539
39. Action Comics Annual 8
40. Monkeyman & O'Brien 1
41. Batman: Legends of Dark Knight Annual 6
42. X-Men: Pryde & Wisdom 1
43. Crow: City of Angels 2
44. Teen Titans 1
45. Justice League Annual 10
46. Incredible Hulk 446
47. X-Men: Rise of Apocalypse 1
48. Superman: The Man of Steel 61
49. Superman: The Man of Tomorrow 6
50. Amber: Guns of Avalon 1

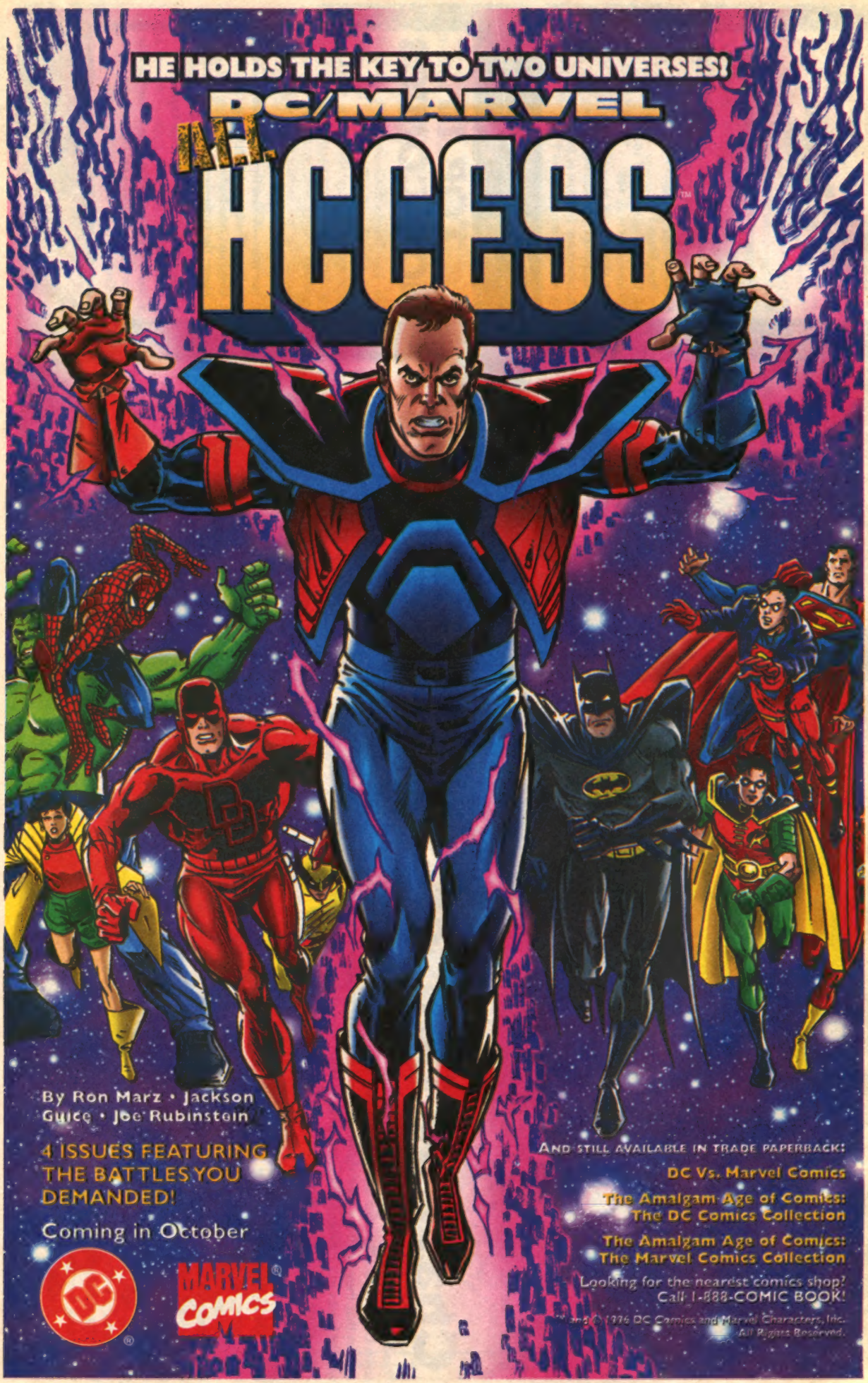
TOP 10 BLACK & WHITE COMICS

1. Strangers In Paradise 13
2. Gon 2
3. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2
4. Elfquest 3
5. Cerebus 209
6. Oh My Goddess! Terrible Master Urd 5
7. Return of Lum Part 3 3
8. Moebius Comics 2
9. Maison Ikkoku Part 6 1
10. Dark Horse Presents 112

TOP 10 NON-COMICS

The Top Ten Non-Comics is based on number and not dollar value. This category includes graphic novels, hardcovers, trade paperbacks, portfolios, etc. It includes books that actually were on sale during the September sales period.

1. Star Wars—A New Hope Expansion Series
2. Ani-Mayhem Expansion Series
3. Kingdom Come Trading Cards
4. Magic: The Gathering—Alliances Expansion
5. Magic: The Gathering Fourth Edition Expansion
6. Magic: The Gathering Ice Age Expansion
7. Wizard 61
8. Star Trek Collectible Card Game Booster Packs
9. Star Trek Collectible Card Game Starter Packs
10. Crow: City of Angels Trading Cards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